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On the type locality of the Cordilleran Buzzard *Buteo poecilochrous*

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Received 21 July 2004

In describing the type locality of *Buteo poecilochrous*, Gurney (1870) mentioned that the bird came from Yauayacu in Ecuador and that the specimen was sent, in 1877, from Ecuador to Messrs. Salvin & Godman in London by a certain Mr Buckley.

Hellmayr & Conover (1949) claimed that Yauayacu is in fact a transcription error, and the real name of the site in Ecuador is Yanayacu. Vaurie (1962) questioned this conclusion and stated that the type locality of *B. poecilochrous* corresponds to a place named Sarayacu. Vaurie (1962) based this on the fact that Buckley's collectors established camp in this place (also currently known as Pacayacu on some maps), on the eastern slope of the Andes (01°34'S, 77°30'W) at 1,500 m, south of Canelos on the río Bobonaza. Vaurie (1962) also claimed that Yanayacu is in truth on the río Corrientes in Peru (03°02'S, 75°15'W).

Nevertheless, the same author also believed that Sarayacu is too low for the Puna Buzzard to be found, since this species is typical of the high Andes, and it was possibly captured at higher altitude. Chapman (1926) also suggested this and stated

(p.728) that the 10,000 skins of 800 species could not all have been collected around Sarayacu, and that some came from higher up, around the headwaters of the río Pastaza and the montane spurs between this river and its tributary, the río Bobonaza.

Chapman (1929) subsequently explained that the collection was labelled by Buckley's agent, Gerard, after it reached London. Most specimens are credited as being from Sarayacu. Vaurie (1962) concluded that 'there is a great deal of room for error and the type specimen was probably not captured at this locality'.

We agree with Hellmayr & Conover (1949) that the locality 'Yauayacu' is a transcription error of the Quechua word yanayacu, which means 'black water' (yana = black, yacu = water). Such-named localities are common in all of the countries in which the Quechua culture was present, especially in Peru. Our reasons for believing this are as follows: no place in Ecuador called Yauayacu has ever been located; a place called Yanayacu undetected by Vaurie (1962) exists in Ecuador above the headwaters of the ríos Pastaza and Bobonaza (01°25'S, 78°39'W) and between the volcanoes of Carihuarazo, Tunguragua, Chimborazo and Culicasanza; this locality is less than 90 km from Buckley's base camp and has all the ecological requirements of altitude (3,000 m +) and open rocky *páramo* that correspond to the habitat of the species (Solís & Black 1985, Ortiz-Crespo 1986, Fjeldså & Krabbe 1990, Cabot 1991). Sarayacu lies at low altitude in the eastern Andes where the predominant habitat is humid tropical forests, occupied by species other than *Buteo*. Thus, we agree with Hellmayr and Conover (1949) that the type locality of *Buteo poecilochrous* is Yanayacu.

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